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# Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 /055 W
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R 301724Z JUL 76
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1675
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, FR
SUBJECT: POULTRY--COGNAC

REF PARIS 21939

1. FIELDING, EC DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS AND LOERKE, COMMISSION'S US DESKOFF, TOLD US THAT THEY WERE DISTRESSED WITH REPORTS THAT THE US WAS CONSIDERING MAKING A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT IN REGARD TO A HEARING ON A DECREASE IN THE COGNAC BREAK POINT. FIELDING SAID THAT THE FRENCH WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE FURIOUS AND WOULD REACT STRONGLY, BRINGING IN THEIR WAKE THE COMMUNITY. ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS FIELDING TOLD US THAT HE HAD DISCOVERED THAT RECENT FAS STATISTICS SHOWED A STRONG INCREASE, NEARLY A DOUBLING, IN RECENT US SHIPMENTS OF TURKEY PARTS TO THE COMMUNITY. HE HOPED THAT THE COMMISSION'S AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS WOULD, IN THE PRE-VACATION RUSH, FAIL TO NOTICE THE REPORT, SINCE THEY WOULD PROBABLY REACT TO IT NEGATIVELY. HE HAD SUCCEEDED IN BLOCKING PRIOR TO THE COMMISSION VACATION, A PROPOSAL TO "SIMPLIFY" THE CO-EFFICIENT ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN DAMAGING TO US TRADE. HE HAD ALSO SUCCEEDED IN TEMPORARILY BLOCKING AN EFFORT TO FACILITATE THE SYSTEM OF PAYMENTS ON EC SUBSIDIES TO
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THE NEAR EAST.

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2. FIELDING FEARS THAT ONCE THE US HAS MADE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF LOWERING THE BREAK POINT THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN A BLOCKING OPERATION IN THE COMMISSION. HE SAID HE DID NOT WISH THIS TO BE CONSIDERED AS A THREAT, BUT HE FEARED THAT A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT TO A "SENSITIZED" PRESSURE GROUP IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD PUT THE UNITED STATES ON AN INEVITABLE COURSE OF INCREASING THE DUTIES ON COGNAC WHICH WOULD HAVE EFFECTS IN THE POULTRY AREA IN THE COMMUNITY. WE TOLD FIELDING THAT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT HE COULD NOT MAKE A MORE POSITIVE STATEMENT, I.E., THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD TAKE POSITIVE ACTION IN THE POULTRY FIELD TO GUARANTEE A CONTINUATION OF THE COGNAC DUTY STATUS QUO. THAT HAD BEEN OUR OBJECTIVE ALL ALONG. UNFORTUNATELY, THE WHOLE EFFORT TO MAINTAIN PEACE IN THE POULTRY FIELD HAD BEEN MARRED BY EC ACTIONS. ON AT LEAST 2 OCCASIONS, RIGHT AFTER THE US HAD, DURING CONSULTATIONS, REQUESTED IMPROVEMENT IN THE POULTRY IMPORT SITUATION, THE "AUTOMATIC" COMMUNITY PROCEDURES HAD RESULTED IN INCREASES IN COMMUNITY TRADE BARRIERS. FIELDING RESPONDED THAT HE COULD NOT, OF COURSE, GUARANTEE WHAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD DECIDE ON POULTRY PARTS FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME IN THE FUTURE, BUT THAT A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES WOULD CERTAINLY MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO RESTRAIN THE HAWKS ON THIS SIDE, THOUGH HE WOULD CONTINUE TRYING.HINTON

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# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994
**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** CUSTOMS DUTIES, AGRICULTURAL POLICIES, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, POULTRY PRODUCTS, IMPORT CONTROLS
**Control Number:** n/a
**Copy:** SINGLE
**Draft Date:** 30 JUL 1976
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004
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**Status:** NATIVE
**Subject:** POULTRY--COGNAC
**TAGS:** EAGR, ETRD, EPAP, US
**To:** STATE
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